UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO: Mr. Conrad

DATE: 1/28/64

FROM: W. D. Griffith

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY
DALLAS, TEXAS, 11/22/63
REQUEST BY INVESTIGATING COMMISSION

On 1/27 and 28/64, SA Lyndal L. Shaneyfelt met with attorneys at the Commission investigating the President's assassination, as set out in my memorandum to you on 1/24/64. SA Shaneyfelt participated in a conference that included Inspector Gauthier and three of his aids, two Secret Service men and attorneys for the Commission. A thorough review was made of the 8 mm motion picture films taken of the assassination by a Mr. Zapruder and a Mr. Nix in an effort to establish as accurately as possible the location and time intervals between the assassin's three shots. Laboratory examination of the film and camera of Zapruder had established the average camera film speed at 18.37 frames per second and the elapsed time between the first and third shot at approximately 5 to 6 seconds. This interval could not be accurately established because the first shot occurred while the camera view of the President was blocked for about one second by a road sign. SA Shaneyfelt was able to assist members of the Commission in establishing time intervals between frames of the film by use of the known camera speeds.

As a result of this conference, the attorneys for the Commission inquired of SA Shaneyfelt whether or not it would be possible to establish the speed of the car from reference points in the film, as well as distances that the car traveled during these intervals. In addition, they asked whether or not an examination of the Nix camera and film could establish similar distances and car speeds, as well as the location of the Nix camera during the filming which has not been determined. It is not clear just what the accurate determination of the speed of the car will contribute to the case, since it is known that the car was traveling relatively slowly; however, Commission representatives have requested that this be established as accurately as possible. SA Shaneyfelt stated that

1 - Mr. Belmont
1 - Mr. Mohr
1 - Mr. Rosen (Mr. Malley)
1 - Mr. Callahan (Mr. Gauthier)
1 - Mr. Sullivan

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this could be done based on an examination of the films and cameras involved, accompanied by a survey of the actual site in Dallas. They requested that the FBI obtain the Nix camera and make the study of the Nix and Zapruder films as set out above.

RECOMMENDATION: If you agree, Dallas will be requested to obtain the Nix camera and furnish it to the Laboratory for examination and after Laboratory tests have been made to determine the film speed of the camera and the study is completed of the Nix film, SA Shaneyfelt will go to Dallas and make the study requested by the Commission.

Being done

O.K. [illegible] Tolson
[illegible] to me.